

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /018 W

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R 050245Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0393

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10503

E.O. 11652: GDS

RYNGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: MRS. GANDHI'S ADVISERS

REF: STATE 173782

1. WE BELIEVE LIST OF PERSONALITIES INNAEFTEL'S PARA. 2 ACCURATELY REFLECTS PRESENT COMPOSITION OF MRS. GANDHI'S INNER CIRCLE OF ADVISORS. P.N. HAKSAR'S POSITION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ERODED RECENTLY, BUT WE DO NOT YET KNOW HOW FAR. HIS PAST ASSOCIATION WITH MRS. GANDHI AND THEIR CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP MAY OVERRIDE RECENT SETBACKS, PARTICULARLY UNDER THE PRESENT "CRISIS" CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. WE ARE POUCHING TO DEPARTMENT A THOROUGH BIOGRAPHIC STUDY OF SANJAY GANDHI, ALONG WITH AN ANALYSIS OF HIS PRESENT AND POTENTIAL INFLUENCE.

3. R.K. DHAWAN: WE FIND SPECULATION THAT R.K. DHAWAN IS MRS. GANDHI'S LOVER LUDICROUS. DHAWAN IS YASHPAL KAPPOR'S NEPHEW. KAPOOR ARRANGED FOR DHAWAN TO REPLACE HIM AS A PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER WHEN HE LEFT TO ORGANIZE HER FIRST LOK SABHA ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN RAE BIREILLY CONSTITUENCY IN 1967. DHAWAN HAS SINCE DONE WELL. HIS FORMAL TITLE IS ADDITIONAL PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER. DHAWAN'S INFLUENCE STEMS FROM HIS OMNIPRESENCE AROUND THE PRIME MINISTER TILL LATE IN THE EVENING (PERHAPS THIS WHERE THE "LOVER" RUMOR COMES FROM). WE ARE TOLD HE

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GESTIONS TO THE PRIME MINISTER AT TIMES WHEN HIS EXPERIENCE TELLS HIM SHE IS MOST SUSCEPTIBLE TO RECEIVING THESE. HE IS AN OBJECT OF SOME FEAR SINCE HE HAS OCCASIONALLY FED OR EVEN CREATED SUSPICIONS ON THE PART OF THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS. ONE SOURCE INDIGNANTLY TOLD AN EMBOFF OF SEVERAL OCCASIONS WHEN HE HAD GREAT DIFFICULTY IN CLEARING HIMSELF OF ABSOLUTELY FALSE RUMORS WHICH HE WAS CONVINCED THE PRIME MINISTER COULD ONLY HAVE PICKED UP FROM DHAWAN.

4. WE BELIEVE DHAWAN IS ESSENTIALLY A PURVEYOR OF INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER AND MORE RECENTLY SANJAY GHANDHI. WE DOUBT THAT HE PLAYS A "POLICY" ROLE EXCEPT IN STRICTLY OPERATIONAL AND PERSONNEL MATTERS, ALTHOUGH HE IS A MIDDLE-MAN IN INTRIGUES WHERE HE MAY SERVE AS A CONDUIT FOR VIEWS TO THE PRIME MINISTER. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ABOUT HIS PERSONAL VIEWS. HIS UNCLE IS STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST; DHAWAN SOUNDS TO US ESSENTIALLY AN OPPORTUNIST.

5. SINCE THE EMERGENCY, MRS. GANDHI HAS INCREASINGLY TURNED TO HER INNER CIRCLE OF ADVISORS FOR CONSULTATIONS AND AD HOC POLITICAL ASSIGNMENTS. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT SHE IS STILL MAKING ALL MAJOR POLICY AND MANY OPERATIONAL DECISIONS HERSELF. GIVEN THEIR PERSONAL OR FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HER (SEE OUR MAY 10, 1974 POLNOTE ON MRS. GANDHI'S INFLUENTIAL ADVISORS), THERE IS EVERY CHANCE THAT SHE WILL CONTINUE TO CALL ON THEIR SERVICES IN THE FUTURE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SEVERAL MAY BE BROUGHT INTO THE CABINET. HOWEVER, WE DOUBT THAT, ASIDE FROM SANJAY, ANY ONE IN THIS INNER CIRCLE HAS THE POTENTIAL TO EXPAND HIS INDIVIDUAL INFLUENCE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER BEYOND THAT OF GRANTING ADVICE AND PERFORMING SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS FOR HER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE10503
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750269-0937
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750881/aaaactxt.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 173782
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <25 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MRS. GANDHI'S ADVISERS
TAGS: PINR, IN, (GANDHI, INDIRA), (BAROOAH, D K), (RAY, S S), (GANDHI, SANJAY), (DHAWAN, R K), (PATEL, RAJNI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006